

Creating Success

NC Community Colleges

Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Success Stories

Mica Welsh



While recuperating from a back injury that ended her 12-year truck driving career, Mica Welsh saw a television news report about Forsyth Tech's biotechnology program. She asked her doctor if she would be physically able to work in the biotechnology field. After considering the clean environment of laboratories and the non-challenging physical aspects, he gave her the go-ahead.

She enrolled at Forsyth Tech at age 43 and found all the encouragement she needed from instructors and other students. Serving in student government for two years and as President during her last year at Forsyth Tech, Welsh graduated in 2007 with a 4.0 grade point average. Her degree qualified her to transfer, as a junior, to Salem College where she is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2010.

Welsh is a research associate with the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce based at Forsyth Tech. Her job involves working with grants, tracking students, and representing the graduate's perspective. "After school, many graduates do not know where to go to look for employment so we try to inform them about the resources our state has available that may assist them in starting their new careers. We are also establishing a database of our workforce for enhanced communication," Welsh explained.

Welsh also has her sights set on earning a Ph.D. from Duke or Wake Forest University to advance her new career in medical research. Forsyth Tech paved the way for Welsh to narrow her focus. "I was learning techniques in the lab which helped me realize that I love research."

Mica Welsh has created her own successes through education. "Life is different now – I have more physical ability and a new education. The whole world has opened up for me," she says.



www.biotechworkforce.org



www.forsythtech.edu



North Carolina
Community College System

www.ncbionetwork.org